

II. Remarks

Reconsideration and re-examination of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is herein respectfully requested. Claims 14-20 are pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge the Examiners indication that claims 16 and 19-20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim Objections

Claim 20 has been amended to correct the informalities objected to by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection to claim 20.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 14-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. 4,416,360 to Fiala (Fiala) in view of U.S. 2003/0144111 to Kato (Kato).

Claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. 4,416,360 to Fiala (Fiala) in view of U.S. 2003/0144111 to Kato (Kato) as applied to claim 14 above, and further in view of U.S. 4,533,011 to Heidemeyer (Heidemeyer).

Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. 4,416,360 to Fiala (Fiala) in view of U.S. 2003/0144111 to Kato (Kato) as applied to claim 14 above, and further in view of U.S. 2002/0059019 to Nakao, et al. (Nakao).

Applicants respectfully submit the attached Declaration of Gurinder S. Kahlon, Shawn Harold Swales, Ning Liu and James L. Klocinski under 37 C.F.R. §1.131, which evidences the conception of the claimed invention prior to March 1, 2002 (the 102(e) date of the Kato reference) and diligence from a date prior to March 1, 2002 to filing of the parent application 6,752,741 from which the instant application receives priority. The applicant respectfully submits that the Kato reference is not prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102, and therefore cannot form the basis for a §103 rejection.

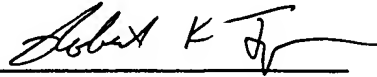
Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present form of the claims are patentably distinguishable over the art of

record and that this application is now in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted by,

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